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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/239,016	01/29/1999	MASAMICHI ITO	35.C13284	5590

5514 7590 05/29/2003

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 05/29/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/239,016

Applicant(s)

MASAMICHI ITO ET AL.

Examiner

King Y. Poon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The change made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhoads (US 6,122,403).

Regarding claim 1: Rhoads teaches an image reproducing device (the computer that is to reproducing an image, such as a video, column 72, lines 15-23, with added watermarks, column 69, lines 49-56) comprising: a reproducing unit (Adobe Photoshop, column 72, lines 45) adapted to reproduce image data from a recording medium (the memory of the computer that is storing the image file, column 69, lines 49-56); and embedding unit (writer, column 69, line 34) adapted

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to embed specific information (e.g., Creator ID, column 69, line 42) into the image data using a digital watermarking technique (column 69, lines 32-35); and a selection unit (the program of the computer that sense the OK selection and embedded the watermark into image data, column 73, lines 45-50) adapted to select whether the specific information is embedded into the image data or not in accordance with user's instruction.

Regarding claim 2: Rhoads teaches wherein the embedding unit is adapted to embed the specific information into the image data without decompressing the image data. (Rhoads teaches to work with original (uncompressed), column 71, lines 10-15; since the image data is uncompressed, there is no need to decompress the image data).

Regarding claim 3: Rhoads teaches wherein the reproducing unit is adapted to reproduce the specific information from the recording medium recording the image data. (Fig. 43, column 7-15, teaches that the specific information/Creator ID is issued to a user one time; the Creator ID, in this case, has to be saved in the recording medium of the computer or lose it otherwise).

Regarding claim 4: Rhoads teaches wherein the reproducing unit is adapted to reproduce the specific information from another recording medium. (Fig. 43, column 7-15, teaches that the specific information/Creator ID is from a MarcCentre database).

Regarding claims 5-8: Claims 5-8, is claiming method steps for the apparatus discussed in claims 1-4. Please see discussion on claims 1-4.

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Regarding claims 9-12: Rhoads teaches to use a computer, running software programs (column 67, lines 55-62) for carrying out the method steps discussed in claims 1-4. It is inherent that a software program is stored in a storage program.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see office action.

Action is Final, Necessitated by Amendment

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection presented in this office action. Therefore, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

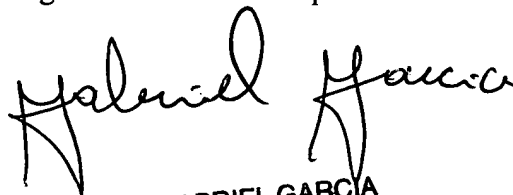
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTHS shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892

May 22, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gabriel Garcia".

GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER